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SURVEY OF EXISTING AGREEMENTS AND INSTRUMENTS, AND CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION

Note by the Secretariat

1. According to the terms of reference adopted by the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development at its second session (A/46/48, Part I, decision 2/3), Working Group III is expected to prepare an annotated list of existing international agreements and international legal instruments in the environmental field, describing their purpose and scope, evaluating their effectiveness, and examining possible areas for the further development of international environmental law, in the light of the need to integrate environment and development, especially taking into account the special needs and concerns of the developing countries.

2. In order to facilitate discussion in the Working Group, the present note contains a draft list of existing international agreements and international legal instruments to be evaluated for this purpose, together with draft criteria for their evaluation in view of the further development of environmental law.

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3. The following documents already submitted or currently being circulated to the Preparatory Committee include information relevant to the evaluation of international agreements and instruments in specific sectors:

A/CONF.151/PC/59 (Working Group I)	Protection of the atmosphere: transboundary air pollution
A/CONF.151/PC/58 (Working Group I)	Protection of the atmosphere: Ozone layer
A/CONF.151/PC/31 (Working Group II)	Global aspects of marine pollution: Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter
A/CONF.151/PC/7 (Working Group II)	Evaluation of the Montreal Guidelines for the Protection of the Marine Environment Against Pollution from Land-based Sources
A/CONF.151/PC/69 (Working Group II)	Protection of the oceans and all kinds of seas, including enclosed and semi-enclosed seas, and coastal areas and the protection, rational use and development of their living resources: international institutions and legal instruments
A/CONF.151/PC/79 (Working Group III)	Progress report on the development of legal instruments for transboundary waters

I. DRAFT LIST OF AGREEMENTS AND INSTRUMENTS

4. The range of existing international agreements and instruments in the environmental field includes formal multilateral treaties at the global and regional level; international technical rules and regulations in sectors having a bearing on environmental protection; and a number of instruments that are not legally binding (* marked by an asterisk in the draft list which follows) but because of their adoption at an intergovernmental level may be considered as initial steps in the development of international environmental law.

5. The present draft list is essentially concerned with environmental protection against man-made risks, and therefore does not include agreements or instruments that are primarily aimed at natural risks or diseases (such as international sanitary, veterinary or phytosanitary rules); nor does it cover the multitude of existing arrangements dealing with bilateral environmental cooperation or with shared geographically limited resources (such as specific watercourses), or the internal environmental enactments of regional economic integration organizations. While any selection or categorization will to some

extent be arbitrary, the principal consideration should be the relevance of an agreement or instrument to the further development of international environmental law.

	A. General environmental concerns	Parties
(1)	Nordic Convention on the Protection of the Environment (Stockholm, 19 February 1974)	regional: 4
(2)*	Principles Concerning Transfrontier Pollution, and related recommendations on Equal Rights of Access and Non-Discrimination (1974 to 1977)	regional (OECD)
(3)	Convention on the Prohibition of Military or Any Other Hostile Use of Environmental Modification Techniques (Geneva, 18 May 1977)	global: 54
(4)	Protocols I and II to the 1949 Convention Relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts (Geneva, 8 June 1977)	global: 99/89
(5)*	Principles of Conduct in the Field of the Environment for the Guidance of States in the Conservation and Harmonious Utilization of Natural Resources Shared by Two or More States (Nairobi, 19 May 1978)	global (UNEP)
(6)	European Outline Convention on Transfrontier Co-operation Between Territorial Communities or Authorities (Madrid, 21 May 1980)	regional: 16
(7)	Convention on Prohibition or Restriction on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons which may be deemed to be excessively injurious or to have indiscriminate effects, and related protocols (Geneva, 10 October 1980)	global: 32
(8)*	Goals and Principles of Environmental Impact Assessment (Nairobi, 17 June 1987)	global (UNEP)
(9)	Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo, 25 February 1991)	regional (ECE) -not in force-

B. Nature conservation and terrestrial living resources

(10)	Convention on Nature Protection and Wildlife Preservation in the Western Hemisphere (Washington, 12 October 1940) as amended	regional: 19
(11)	International Convention for the Protection of Birds (Paris, 18 October 1950), and related regional instruments (1972-1979)	global: 10
(12)	Antarctic Treaty (Washington, 1 December 1959) and related agreements and protocols (1964-1991)	global: 39
(13)	African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (Algiers, 15 September 1968)	regional: 29
(14)	Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar, 2 February 1971) as amended	global: 62
(15)	Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (Paris, 12 November 1972)	global (UNESCO): 116
(16)	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (Washington, 3 March 1973) as amended	global (UNEP): 110
(17)	Agreement on Conservation of Polar Bears (Oslo, 15 November 1973)	regional: 5
(18)	Convention on Conservation of Nature in the South Pacific (Apia, 12 June 1976)	regional: 5
(19)	Treaty for Amazonian Co-operation (Brasilia, 3 July 1978)	regional: 8
(20)	Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (Bonn, 23 June 1979)	global (UNEP): 34
(21)	Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Berne, 19 September 1979)	regional: 25

(22)	Convention for the Conservation and Management of the Vicuña (Lima, 20 December 1979)	regional: 4
(23)	International Tropical Timber Agreement (Geneva, 18 November 1983)	global (UNCTAD): 50
(24)*	International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources (Rome, 23 November 1983) as supplemented	global (FAO): 102
(25)	ASEAN Agreement on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (Kuala Lumpur, 9 July 1985)	regional: 6
C.	Atmosphere	
(26)	Regulations concerning gaseous pollutant emissions from motor vehicles, pursuant to the Agreement Concerning the Adoption of Uniform Conditions of Approval and Reciprocal Recognition of Approval for Motor Vehicle Equipment and Parts (Geneva, 20 March 1958), as amended and supplemented (1970-1991)	regional (ECE): 21
(27)	Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (Geneva, 13 November 1979), and related protocols (1984-1988)	regional (ECE): 32
(28)*	Provisions for Co-operation Between States on Weather Modification (Nairobi, 29 April 1980)	global (UNEP)
(29)	Annex 16 (II) on aircraft engine emissions, to the 1944 Chicago Convention on International Civil Aviation (Montreal, 30 June 1981, as amended in 1988)	global (ICAO)
(30)	Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer (Vienna, 22 March 1985) and Montreal Protocol, 1987 as amended	global (UNEP): 77
D.	Marine environment	
(31)	Convention for the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (Copenhagen, 12 September 1964) as amended	global: 17

(32)	International Convention on Civil Liability for Oil Pollution Damage (Brussels, 29 November 1969) and related 1976 protocol, as amended	global (IMO): 69
(33)	International Convention Relating to Intervention on the High Seas in Case of Oil Pollution Casualties (Brussels, 29 November 1969) and related 1973 protocol	global (IMO): 57
(34)	Nordic Agreement concerning Co-operation in Measures to Deal with Pollution of the Sea by Oil (Copenhagen, 16 September 1971)	regional: 4
(35)	International Convention on the Establishment of an International Fund for Compensation for Oil Pollution Damage (Brussels, 18 December 1971) and related protocols (1976-1984)	global (IMO): 45
(36)	Convention for the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping from Ships and Aircraft (Oslo, 15 February 1972) as amended	regional: 13
(37)	Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter (London, 29 December 1972) as amended	global: 63
(38)	International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (London, 2 November 1973) and 1978 Protocol, as amended	global (IMO): 66
(39)	Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Area (Helsinki, 22 March 1974) as amended	regional: 6
(40)	Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution from Land-based Sources (Paris, 4 June 1974) as amended	regional: 13
(41)	Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution (Barcelona, 16 February 1976) and related protocols (1976-1982)	regional (UNEP): 19

(42)	Convention on Civil Lability for Oil Pollution Damage Resulting from Exploration for and Exploitation of Seabed Mineral Resources (London, 1 May 1977)	regional: -not in force-
(43)	Kuwait Regional Convention for Co-operation on the Protection of the Marine Environment from Pollution (Kuwait, 23 April 1978), and related protocols (1978-1989)	regional (UNEP): 8
(44)	Convention for Co-operation in the Protection and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the West and Central African Region, and related protocol (Abidjan, 23 March 1981)	regional (UNEP): 10
(45)	Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and Coastal Area of the Southeast Pacific (Lima, 12 November 1981), and related protocols (1983-1989)	regional (UNEP): 5
(46)*	Memorandum of Understanding on Port State Control in Implementing Agreements on Maritime Safety and Protection of the Marine Environment (Paris, 26 January 1982)	regional: 14
(47)	Regional Convention for the Conservation of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden Environment, and related protocol (Jeddah, 14 February 1982)	regional (UNEP): 7
(48)*	Guidelines Concerning the Environment Related to Offshore Mining and Drilling within the Limits of National Jurisdiction (Nairobi, 31 May 1982)	global (UNEP)
(49)	United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (Montego Bay, 10 December 1982)	global: (47) -not in force-
(50)	Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (Cartagena, 24 March 1983), and related protocols (1983-1990)	regional (UNEP): 17

(51)	Agreement for Co-operation in Dealing with Pollution of the North Sea by Oil and Other Harmful Substances (Bonn, 13 September 1983)	regional: 10
(52)*	Montreal Guidelines for the Protection of the Marine Environment against Pollution from Land-based Sources (Nairobi, 24 May 1985)	global (UNEP)
(53)	Convention for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Eastern African Region, and related protocols (Nairobi, 21 June 1985)	regional (UNEP): (5) -not in force-
(54)	Convention for the Protection of the Natural Resources and Environment of the South Pacific Region, and related protocols (Noumea, 24 November 1986)	regional (UNEP): 10
(55)	International Convention on Salvage (London, 28 April 1989)	global (IMO): (2) -not in force-
(56)	Agreement on Co-operation for Combating Pollution in the Northeast Atlantic (Lisbon, 17 October 1990)	regional: (5) -not in force-
(57)	International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-operation (London, 29 November 1990)	global (IMO) -not in force-

E. Marine Living Resources

(58)	International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling (Washington, 2 December 1946) as amended	global: 40
(59)	Agreement for the Establishment of the Indo-Pacific Fishery Commission (Baguio, 26 February 1948) as amended	global (FAO): 19
(60)	Convention for the Establishment of an Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (Washington, 31 May 1949) and related agreement (1983)	regional: 5
(61)	Agreement for the Establishment of the General Fisheries Council for the Mediterranean (Rome, 6 December 1949) as amended	global (FAO): 19

(62)	Agreement concerning Measures for Protection of the Stocks of Deep-Sea Prawns, European Lobsters, Norway Lobsters and Crabs (Oslo, 7 March 1952)	regional: 3
(63)	International Convention for the High Seas Fisheries of the North Pacific Ocean (Tokyo, 9 May 1952)	regional: 3
(64)	Convention on the Organization of the Permanent Commission on the Exploitation and Conservation of the Maritime Resources of the South Pacific (Santiago, 18 August 1952) and related agreements (1954-1979)	regional: 4
(65)	Interim Convention on North Pacific Fur Seals (Washington, 2 February 1957) as amended	regional: 4
(66)	International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (Rio de Janeiro, 14 May 1966) as amended	global (FAO): 24
(67)	Convention on the Conservation of the Living Resources of the Southeast Atlantic (Rome, 23 October 1969)	global (FAO): 16
(68)	Convention on Fishing and Conservation of the Living Resources in the Baltic Sea and Belts (Gdansk, 13 September 1973) as amended	regional: 5
(69)	Convention on Future Multilateral Cooperation in the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries (Ottawa, 24 October 1978)	global: 13
(70)	South Pacific Forum Fisheries Convention (Honiara, 10 July 1979) and related agreements (1982-1989)	regional: 15
(71)	Convention on Future Multilateral Co-operation in the Northeast Atlantic Fisheries (London, 18 November 1980)	global: 11
(72)	Convention for the Conservation of Salmon in the North Atlantic Ocean (Reykjavik, 2 March 1982)	regional: 9

(73)	Agreement on the Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia and the Pacific (Bangkok, 8 January 1988)	regional: 9
F.	Hazardous substances	
(74)*	Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods (Geneva, 26 April 1957, 7th revision 1990)	global (ECOSOC)
(75)	European Agreement Concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road (Geneva, 30 September 1957) as amended	regional (ECE): 20
(76)	European Agreement on the Restriction of the Use of Certain Detergents in Washing and Cleaning Products (Strasbourg, 16 September 1968)	regional: 10
(77)	Convention for the Mutual Recognition of Inspections in Respect of the Manufacture of Pharmaceutical Products (Geneva, 8 October 1970)	global: 15
(78)	Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons, and on their Destruction (London, Moscow, Washington, 10 April 1972)	global: 106
(79)*	Decisions and recommendations on Mutual Acceptance of Data in the Assessment of Chemicals and Good Laboratory Practices (1981-1989)	regional (OECD)
(80)*	International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides (Rome, 19 November 1985) as amended	global(FAO)
(81)*	London Guidelines for the Exchange of Information on Chemicals in International Trade (Nairobi, 17 June 1987) as amended	global (UNEP)
(82)	Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal (Basel, 22 March 1989)	global (UNEP): (10) -not in force-

(83)	Convention on Civil Liability for Damage Caused During Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road, Rail and Inland Navigation Vessels (Geneva, 10 October 1989)	regional (ECE) -not in force-
(84)	Convention on the Ban of the Import into Africa and the Control of Transboundary Movements and Management of Hazardous Wastes within Africa (Bamako, 30 January 1991)	regional (OAU) -not in force-
G.	Nuclear safety	
(85)*	Resolution 913 (X) establishing the Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation (New York, 3 December 1955)	global (UNGA)
(86)	Convention on Third Party Liability in the Field of Nuclear Energy (Paris, 29 July 1960) as amended and supplemented	regional (OECD): 14
(87)	Convention on the Liability of Operators of Nuclear Ships (Brussels, 25 May 1962)	global (IAEA) -not in force-
(88)	Convention on Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage (Vienna, 21 May 1963) and related protocols (1963-1988)	global (IAEA): 10
(89)	Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and Under Water (Moscow, 5 August 1963)	global: 118
(90)	Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America (Tlatelolco, 14 February 1967)	regional: 31
(91)	Convention Relating to Civil Liability in the Field of Maritime Carriage of Nuclear Material (Brussels, 17 December 1971)	global (IMO): 12
(92)	South Pacific Nuclear-Free Zone Treaty (Raratonga, 8 August 1985)	regional: 13
(93)	Conventions on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident, and on Assistance in the Case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency (Vienna, 26 September 1986)	global (IAEA): 57/53

H. Working environment

(94)	Convention Concerning the Protection of Workers Against Ionizing Radiations (Geneva, 22 June 1960)	global (ILO): 39
(95)	Convention Concerning Protection Against Hazards of Poisoning from Benzene (Geneva, 23 June 1971)	global (ILO): 27
(96)	Convention Concerning Prevention and Control of Occupational Hazards Caused by Carcinogenic Substances and Agents (Geneva, 26 June 1974)	global (ILO): 24
(97)	Convention Concerning Protection of Workers Against Occupational Hazards in the Working Environment Due to Air Pollution, Noise and Vibration (Geneva, 20 June 1977)	global (ILO): 25
(98)	Convention Concerning Occupational Safety and Health and the Working Environment (Geneva, 22 June 1981)	global (ILO): 13
(99)	Convention Concerning Safety in the Use of Asbestos (Geneva, 24 June 1986)	global (ILO): 11
(100)	Convention on Safety in the Use of Chemicals at Work (Geneva, 24 June 1990)	global (ILO): -not in force-

II. DRAFT CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION

6. In carrying out an evaluation of the effectiveness of existing agreements and instruments, the Working Group may wish to focus on a number of common criteria, which could also provide guidance in the identification of gaps and possible areas for the further development of international environmental law. (Some of the draft criteria listed may not be applicable to declaratory/non-binding instruments).

A. Participation

(1) What is the current range of membership in existing environmental agreements and instruments, especially as regards developing countries?

(2) What is the record of actual participation by member States in programme activities and meetings organized under these agreements and instruments?

(3) Which incentives (e.g., financial, trade, technology benefits) are available to encourage participation, especially by developing countries?

(4) Which have been the major obstacles (if any) preventing wider participation, especially by developing countries?

(5) In the case of regional agreements and instruments, what is their actual and potential bearing on global environmental protection?

NOTE: Current information on the membership (signature, ratification, accession) status for most of the agreements and instruments listed in section I above is provided, on an annual basis, in the UNEP Register of International Treaties and Other Agreements in the Field of the Environment (Nairobi, UNEP/GC.16/Inf.4, 1991, available in all official languages), and in the United Nations publication Multilateral Treaties Deposited with the Secretary-General (New York, 1991, available in English and French).

B. Monitoring and reporting

(6) To what extent have the basic objectives (environmental/economic) of these international agreements and instruments been met, and how is goal achievement measured?

(7) How is compliance by parties with their obligations under these agreements and instruments monitored?

(8) How do parties report on their performance in implementing agreements and instruments, and to what extent have they complied with reporting duties?

(9) Which are the specific requirements (if any) of data supply and data disclosure, and to what extent have they been met by the parties?

(10) Which have been the main obstacles (if any) to reporting, data supply and data disclosure?

(11) Which possibilities exist to follow up on non-compliance, and to what extent have they been used?

(12) Which mechanisms, including fact-finding procedures, are available to deal with disputes over implementation and to what extent have they been used?

NOTE: A number of international environmental agreements and instruments contain provisions for compliance control and/or an obligation for parties to submit, through the secretariat, regular performance reports for public review. Periodic progress reports on the implementation of specific instruments (such as the UNEP Guidelines on Shared Natural Resources) are also submitted to the General Assembly through the UNEP Governing Council, based on performance reports solicited from Governments and organizations. A major part of compliance control for many environmental agreements and instruments consists of the collection and analysis of data to substantiate and verify implementation by the parties.

C. Information

(13) In which form and in which languages are the texts of existing agreements and instruments published and disseminated?

(14) How is current information on the operation and implementation of international agreements and instruments made available to Governments, to the industries concerned and to the general public?

(15) What additional materials are available to provide guidance for the implementation of international agreements and instruments at the national level?

(16) To what extent is the above information used in international and national training and education programmes?

NOTE: Further to official publication of treaty texts in the United Nations Treaty Series (which, however, suffers from a general printing backlog of more than 10 years) several unofficial collections of international environmental agreements and instruments exist, including the UNEP Reference Series of Selected Multilateral Treaties in the Field of the Environment (available in English and French) and the UNEP Environmental Law Guidelines and Principles (available in all official languages). In addition, secretariats in charge of administering some of these agreements and instruments have issued public information material or regular information bulletins concerning these instruments. The United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) has undertaken a number of programmes which include the promotion of international legal instruments for environment and development. Several non-governmental institutions and associations play an important role in this field.

D. Operation and adjustment

(17) Which are the institutional arrangements for international administration of existing agreements and instruments?

(18) What are the annual (1990) costs of international administration (secretariat, meetings, programmes) of agreements and instruments, and how are they financed?

(19) Which are the main cost elements of national participation in existing agreements and instruments and which possibilities exist to reduce participation costs for developing countries?

(20) To what extent has technical cooperation been provided to developing countries for implementing international agreements and legal instruments in the field of environment?

(21) Which mechanisms are available to ensure that scientific knowledge and advice is taken into account in policy-making decisions under these agreements and instruments?

(22) How do these arrangements and mechanisms ensure the effective participation of (a) national authorities, especially from developing countries; and (b) non-governmental participants, including the industries concerned and the scientific community?

(23) Which mechanisms are available to ensure periodic review and timely adjustment of international agreements and instruments, and to what extent have they been used?

NOTE: The process by which international law-making treaties are formulated and brought into force was extensively examined by the General Assembly in the United Nations Review of the Multilateral Treaty-Making Process (ST/LEG/SER.B/21, 1981). Information on the actual operation of treaty regimes will have to be compiled from a cross-section of reports to the governing bodies concerned, together with available external analyses. Technical assistance to Governments for the necessary implementing measures and institutions has been provided ad hoc by UNEP and by several specialized agencies within their areas of competence, and could play an important role in promoting wider participation. In view of the need for rapid and frequent adjustment of environmental agreements and instruments to changing circumstances and to scientific and technological progress, flexible amendment procedures have proved essential. In addition, several existing agreements provide for periodic review conferences to assess implementation and policy adaptation.

E. Codification programming

(24) Which new drafts or draft revisions of existing agreements and instruments in the environmental field are currently under preparation?

(25) To what extent is drafting coordinated with related work regarding other agreements and instruments?

(26) Which are the remaining gaps that need to be covered by legal provisions?

(27) To what extent are mechanisms other than formal agreements or instruments contributing to the development of international law in the field of the environment?

NOTE: An "in-depth review" of international environmental law, summarizing the activities of competent intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, was carried out by UNEP, (UNEP Report No. 2, 1981, in English only), as part of preparations for the long-term "Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law" adopted in 1982 by Governing Council decision 10/21 (endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 37/217); an update is planned for 1991. Summaries of "legislative" activities within the United Nations system are published in the United Nations Juridical Yearbook (up to 1984, in English, French and Spanish). Environmental law activities are included in the "system-wide medium-term environment programme" (SWMTEP 1990-1995, UNEP/GCSS.I/7/Add.1), and regular inter-agency consultations are held in sectors such as water resources and ocean affairs. Furthermore, some of the regional bodies in charge of administering environmental conventions have initiated direct

consultations to avoid potential conflicts or overlaps. There also is a considerable amount of standard-setting ongoing that is not based on specific environmental agreements and instruments but on the constitutional functions of existing international bodies. An overview of current and planned drafting work in this field could assist in harmonizing global and regional codification programmes.

III. GUIDANCE FOR FURTHER LEGAL WORK

7. The Working Group is expected to examine possible areas for the further development of international environmental law, in the light of the need to integrate environment and development, especially taking into account the needs and concerns of developing countries. Areas to be examined in this context are, in particular:

(a) priorities for future law-making at the global, regional and national level;

(b) measures to promote and support the effective participation of developing countries in existing and future international agreements or instruments;

(c) international compliance control, regular scientific assessment and timely adjustment of agreements or instruments;

(d) coordination and streamlining of (global and regional) institutions and procedures for the administration of international agreements and instruments;

(e) resolution and prevention of conflicts, including potential conflicts between environmental and economic/trade agreements or instruments.

NOTE: Relevant materials include, in particular, the draft instruments being prepared by the United Nations International Law Commission, especially in connection with its work on state responsibility; on a draft code of crimes against the peace and security of mankind; on the law of the non-navigational uses of international watercourses; and on international liability for injurious consequences arising out of acts not prohibited by international law (see the report of the International Law Commission on the work of its forty-second session, Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fifth session, Supplement No. 10, A/45/10, 1990; and the comments by Governments on recent work by the International Law Commission in these areas, summarized in document A/CN.4/L.456, 1991).

By resolution 44/23, the General Assembly declared the period 1990-1999 as the United Nations Decade of International Law, the main purposes of which include, inter alia, "to promote acceptance of and respect for the principles of international law" and "to encourage the progressive development of international law and codification". In this context, protection of the global environment was addressed in comments from States and organizations, summarized in the 1990 report of the Secretary General (United Nations Decade of International Law, A/45/430 and Addenda 1-3), including a project proposed by China on "developing countries and international legislation on environment" (A/45/430/Add.2), and a document submitted by Italy on the

conclusions of the 1990 Siena Forum on International Law of the Environment (A/45/666). A comprehensive report on this subject will be prepared by the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs, for submission to the 46th session of the General Assembly in 1991. The World Bank, in the context of its 1992 World Development Report, will undertake an assessment of the effectiveness of multilateral agreements in the field of the environment. The United Nations University has initiated a project on "international law and global change", with the aim of producing a major cooperative study and teaching materials in this field, expected to be completed in time for the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.